



National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)

Helping People Participate in Our Democracy

November 2013





Why Did Congress Pass the NVRA?

- Make it Easy for Americans to Register and Vote
 - “Motor Voter” ~ Register at any DMV in the U.S.
 - Reach people who may not visit the DMV:
 - Register at any public assistance agency
 - Register at any agency primarily serving people with disabilities
- Eliminate the Vestiges of Discrimination
 - Register by Mail
 - Permanent Registration
 - Safeguards Against “Purging” Voter Roles



Who Must Offer Voter Registration?

- DMV Offices
- Public Assistance Agencies
 - County Health/Human Services Offices/In-Home Support Services
 - WIC Offices
 - California Health Benefit Exchange
- Disability Service Agencies
 - Dept. of Rehabilitation Vocational Services
 - Independent Living Centers
 - Dept. of Developmental Services Regional Centers
 - Dept. of Social Services Office of Deaf Access Contractors
 - State and County Mental Health Providers
- Armed Forces Recruitment Offices
- "Other"
 - Board of Equalization District Offices
 - Franchise Tax Board District Offices



When Do Agencies Offer Voter Registration?

- NVRA requires agencies to offer voter registration when a person applies for:
 - New services or benefits
 - Renewal or recertification
 - A change of name or address



How Do Agencies Offer Voter Registration?

- Hand out a voter registration card (VRC)
- Hand out an NVRA “voter preference form”
- Help the applicant register, if asked
- Forward voter registration forms daily
- Keep preference forms for 2 years



Who Should Register to Vote?

- Has never registered
- Moved to a new address
- Changed name
- Changed political party preference
- Not sure if registered to vote
- Has not voted in the last several elections



What Issues Might Come Up?

- **Neutrality:** Don't influence decision to register or party preference.
- **In-home Assistance:** Agency must still offer voter registration.
- **Conservatorship:** Court order must state incompetent to register to vote.
- **Parent/Guardian:** Offer registration to adults applying on behalf of children.
- **Literacy:** Not a requirement to register to vote.
- **No SSN or DL:** Not a requirement to register to vote.
- **Signature:** Applicant may mark an "X" or use a signature stamp.
- **No street address:** Space on form to describe location where applicant lives.



What Happens after a Person Registers?

Voter Gets:

- Postcard Confirming Status
- Voting Materials
- Polling Place Location
- Ballot (for Vote-By-Mail Voters)



Questions about Voting?

- Call:

- County Elections Office
- Secretary of State's Voter Hotline:
(800) 345-VOTE (8683)

- Visit:

- SOS.CA.GOV



What's New for California?

- New California Laws:
 - Designate an NVRA Coordinator
 - Register Agency with County Elections Office
 - Get Voter Registration Forms from County Elections Office
 - Offer Voter Registration in Other Languages
 - Train Staff Annually

- New State Agency Instructions:
 - DSS; DOR-Voc Serv; DOR-ILCs; DDS; Office of Deaf Access

- California Online Voter Registration Links:
 - C-IV, Cal-Winn, LEADER Online Benefits Enrollment
 - Department of Rehabilitation Vocational Services
 - California Health Benefit Exchange



California Secretary of State

- SOS NVRA Liaison: Jennie Bretschneider
- SOS NVRA Coordinator: Rhonda Pascual
- Secretary of State
Elections Division - NVRA Coordinator
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 657-2166
nvra@sos.ca.gov
sos.ca.gov/elections/nvra

Voter Registration Card (VRC)

CALIFORNIA VOTER REGISTRATION FORM
SOS

Fill out this form if you are a new voter, have moved or changed your name, or want to change your political party preference.
You must be a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old by the next election to use this form. Use blue or black ink. Print clearly.

1 Your legal name: first name _____ Middle name _____ Last name _____

2 Home address – not a P.O. Box or business address – (Number, Street, Ave., Drive, etc. Include M, S, E, W) _____ Apt. or unit # _____

3 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ California county _____

4 If you do not have a street address, describe where you live (Cross street, Route, M, S, E, W) _____

5 Mailing address – if different from above, or P.O. Box _____

6 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Foreign country _____

7 Date of birth _____ U.S. state or foreign country of birth _____

8 CA driver's license or CA ID card # _____ If you do not have a CA driver's license or ID card, list the last 4 numbers of your Social Security Number, if you have one. → SSN (last 4 numbers) _____

9 Phone numbers are posted at polling places on election day. Phone number (optional) _____

10 Do you want to disclose a political party preference?
Yes, my political party preference is (check one):
☐ American Independent Party ☐ American Elect Party ☐ Democratic Party
☐ Green Party ☐ Libertarian Party ☐ Peace and Freedom Party
☐ Republican Party ☐ Other (specify) _____
No, I do not want to disclose a political party preference.
If you check this box, you may not be able to vote for some parties' candidates at a primary election for U.S. President or party committee.

11 To receive a vote-by-mail ballot in all elections, initial here: _____

12 If you were registered to vote before, fill out below.
First name _____ Middle initial _____ Last name _____
Previous address where you were registered _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Previous county _____ Previous political party preference (if any) _____

13 Are you a U.S. citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Will you be 18 or older by the next election? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14 Read and sign below.
I am a U.S. citizen and will be at least 18 years old on election day. I am not in prison or on parole for a felony. I understand that it is a crime to intentionally provide incorrect information on this form. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information on this form is true and correct.

15 Voter Signature _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
59 BZ 160001

Important! To vote in the next election, you must mail or deliver this card at least 15 days before the next election. New voters who register by mail may have to show their ID at the polling place the first time they vote.

16 Your here and not. Mark the edge to seal. Do not staple or tape. The bottom part is your receipt. Keep it until you receive a voter identification card in the mail.

As a registered voter, you may vote for any candidate for state or congressional office, regardless of the party preference or lack of party preference disclosed by you or the candidate.

17 Did someone help you fill out or deliver this form?
If yes, the person who helped you must fill out and sign both parts of this gray box.
Signature _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
Name, address, and tel. _____
Org. name and tel. (if any) _____
(This part is the voter's receipt.)
Signature _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
Name, address, and tel. _____
Org. name and tel. (if any) _____

The law protects your voter registration information against commercial use.
Report any problems to the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline: (800) 345-8683.

Questions, problems
or to report fraud:
Contact the Secretary of State.
Call: (800) 345-VOTE (8683)
Email: elections@sos.ca.gov
Web site: www.sos.ca.gov
Or contact your county elections office.

59 BZ



NVRA Voter Preference Form

If you are not registered to vote where you live now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today?
(Check One)

- ☐ Already registered. I am registered to vote at my current residence address.
- ☐ Yes. I would like to register to vote. (Please fill out the attached voter registration form.)
- ☐ No. I do not want to register to vote.

NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT CHECK A BOX, YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT THIS TIME. YOU MAY TAKE THE ATTACHED VOTER REGISTRATION FORM TO REGISTER AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

Applicant Name _____

Date _____

Important Notices

1. Applying to register or declining to register to vote will **not** affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided by this agency.
2. If you would like help in filling out the voter registration form, we will help you. The decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill out the voter registration form in private.
3. If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own political party preference or other political preference, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State by calling toll-free (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or you may write to: Secretary of State, 1500 - 11th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814. For more information on elections and voting, please visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ca.gov.

01/13 NVRA Voter Preference Form